

**JOINT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CODE**

**COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE**

**UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE**

**October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998**

The Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; the Judge Advocates General of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard; the Director, Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps; Eugene R. Fidell, Esquire, and Professor Fredric I. Lederer, Public Members appointed by the Secretary of Defense, submit their annual report on the operation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice pursuant to Article 146, Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 USC § 946.

The Code Committee met during fiscal year 1998 to consider various matters pertaining to the administration of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This meeting was open to the public and interested attendees participated in the proceedings. Code Committee members were presented reports on pending cases and trends in court-martial activity within each of the Armed Forces. Reports and discussions also took place concerning various proposals to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual for Courts-Martial.

The Code Committee received a report submitted by its Subcommittee on Technology, and determined that a copy of this report should be forwarded to the Secretaries of Defense and Transportation noting certain areas that had been identified in which the use of technology could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the military justice system. In addition, the Committee received and considered an interim report of its Subcommittee on the Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

A representative of the Joint-Service Committee on Military Justice presented the results of a recent survey revealing a serious problem in the recruiting and retention of military lawyers who were not being compensated in a

manner that would allow them to pay off student loans incurred as a result of their legal education. As a result of the discussion of this problem, the Code Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Members of both the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on National Security expressing the Code Committee's concern with respect to this problem and urging Congress to consider appropriate remedial legislation. Other subjects discussed by the Code Committee included the public availability of copies of the Manual for Courts-Martial, issues under review by the Joint-Service Committee on Military Justice, and publication of the opinions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and of the various Armed Forces Courts of Criminal Appeals.

Separate reports of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the individual Armed Forces address further items of special interest to the Committees on Armed Services of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, as well as the Secretaries of Defense, Transportation, Army, Navy, and Air Force.

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